

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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WILLIAM WIXOM ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDIEVAL ART AND
THE CLOISTERS AT THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

William D. Wixom, Curator of Medieval and Renaissance Decorative Arts at The Cleveland Museum of Art, has been elected Chairman of the Department of Medieval Art and The Cloisters at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Wixom will assume his duties at the Metropolitan Museum in the spring of 1979.

"We regret very much the loss of Mr. Wixom," said Sherman E. Lee, Director of The Cleveland Museum of Art. "He is the outstanding curator in his field, and his 20 years here have been most productive. We congratulate him on his appointment to the most important job in his field in this country, and will miss his continuing contribution to this Museum."

Wixom came to The Cleveland Museum of Art in 1958 as Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts following a four-month stint as a Student Fellow in the Medieval Department at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. In 1961 he became Associate Curator of Decorative Arts at Cleveland and in 1967 was named to his current position.

At Cleveland Wixom has had responsibility for Early Christian, Byzantine, Medieval, Renaissance, African, and Oceanic Art, except for textiles and paintings on panel or canvas. He has curated several special exhibitions, including Gothic Art 1360-1440, Treasures from Medieval France, African Tribal Images, and Renaissance Bronzes from Ohio Collections. Under his curatorship numerous works have been acquired by the Museum, most notably: St. Lawrence and St. Stephen,

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lindenwood sculptures, German (1502-1510) by Tilmann Riemenschneider; The Gotha Missal, manuscript, German (ca. 1360-1365); Hours of Charles the Noble, manuscript, France (ca. 1405); a group of early Christian marble sculptures; Madonna and Child, marble sculpture attributed to Andrea Pisano, Italy (ca. 1330s); Pair of Angels, walnut sculptures, France (ca. 1235-1245); Journey to Bethlehem, ivory carving, Italy (ca. 1100); and Three Ivory Panels from a French Gothic Casket, ivory carving, France (ca. 1400-1450). The last two pieces were purchased at the recent sale of the von Hirsch collection.

During the past five years Wixom has directed the reinstallation of the Museum's galleries for early Christian and Byzantine art, Medieval and Renaissance art, Italian Renaissance sculpture, and African and Oceanic art.

In addition to his responsibilities at The Cleveland Museum of Art, Wixom is an Adjunct Associate Professor of the History of Art at Case Western Reserve University. He is a board member and past president of the International Center of Medieval Art at The Cloisters and a member of the Advisory Council of the Art Gallery of Notre Dame University. He is the author of numerous books, catalogues, essays, and articles.

Philippe de Montebello, Director of the Metropolitan Museum said when announcing Wixom's election: "I am extremely pleased that such an internationally respected scholar and distinguished Museum professional has agreed to take command of the Museum's large and complex collections of medieval art. Both the Medieval Department in the main building and The Cloisters uptown will benefit from the unifying effect of a single guiding hand. His great range of experience should prove invaluable to future reinstallations of the galleries of medieval art and to the further development of research and publishing programs."

Born in Philadelphia in 1929, Wixom received a B.A. from Haverford College in 1951 and an M.A. from New York University Institute of Fine Arts in 1963. He and his wife Nancy Coe Wixom live in Bratenahl with their two sons and daughter.

For additional information, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.